<u>Patent</u>

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA, 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the Applicants' duty to disclose information which may be material to the examination of this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner consider on the merits the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified). A copy of each foreign patent document listed is enclosed herewith.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The documents listed were cited in the Japanese Office Action for Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-26008 dated November 6, 2007 no more than three months prior to the filing of the IDS. A copy of the Office Action is enclosed herewith. No item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement therefore the documents listed should be considered on the merits.

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The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

The person making this statement is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of information supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c)) and on the basis of information in the practitioner's file.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent and Trademark Office via electronic filling on January 24, 2008 by Guillermo Gonzalez. Respectfully submitted,

/Robert Popa 43,010/

/Guillermo Gonzalez/

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LADAS & PARRY

Enclosures: Form PTO-1449 (modified) (1 page)
Copy of foreign patent document listed
Copy of Japanese Office Action